possible, non-accumulation of defective matters, reservation of more and sufficient time slot for old pending cases in chronological order and streamlining of administration and man-power of the registry through computer network. The High Courts have also taken similar steps to reduce backlog of cases.

National Task Force on Judicial Reforms

431. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Task Force on Judicial Reforms of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) led by C.K. Birla had looked into the problem of pending cases in various courts and submitted a report to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the main recommendations made; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) On the eve of a National Seminar held by Confederation of Indian Industry in 1996, a report of the Task Force led by Shri C.K. Birla on Judicial Reforms was presented to the then Minister of State for Law, Justice and Company Affairs, as the Chief Guest in the Seminar.

(b) The salient features of the report include, *inter-alia,* timely filling up of vacancies of judges, increase in the number of judges, increase in the retirement age of the High Court Judges, streamlining the procedure, rationalization of court holidays/vacations, rationalising of court fees to make it more realistic, curtailment of adjournments, accountability of executive officers in revenue matters, accountability of judges, improvement in service conditions of judges, training and orientation of lawyers, etc.

(c) The recommendations cover a wide convas of judicial reforms. Implementation of Judicial reforms is an ongoing and continuous process. The Law Commission and various Committees constituted in this regard have suggested a number of measures on judicial reforms. Various measures have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of cases. These include filling up of Vacancies of Judges, increase in the number of posts of Judges/ Judicial Officers, establishment of Special Courts/tribunals, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates, etc.

The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1999, has been passed by Parliament which, *inter alia,* includes restriction on adjournments upto

three to a party in a suit and time bound procedure at certain stages of the case. The relevant provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1999, are awaiting Government notification. Steps have also been taken to improve the service conditions of Judges/Judicial officers by the Central Government and the State Governments.

Setting up of Fast Track Courts

432. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up fast track courts to clear the backlog of cases in various High Courts and Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the other measures proposed to be taken for the disposal of the pending cases within a fixed time; and

(d) what are the details of the cases pending in each of the High Courts and Supreme Court as on 31st December, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Supreme Court has taken a number of measures to reduce the pendency such as more practical categorisation and grouping of cases, to take up for hearing all the case listed for the particular day as far as possible, non-accumulation of defective matters, reservation of more and sufficient time slot for old pending cases in chronological order and streamlining of administration and man-power of the registry through computer network. As a result, the pendency of cases in Supreme Court has come down from 1,04,936 cases in 1991 to 21,657 cases as on 2-11-2000.

All the High Courts have been requested to follow the steps taken by Supreme Court for bringing down the pendency. The High Courts have favourably responded. Efforts are being made with the help of the Chief Justice of India and the Chief Justice of the High Courts to fill up all vacant posts of